

POSITION CLASSIFIER

so that's it Lloyd I say
down to GS-5 sign here please and he looks
at Mike and me and his chin
wobbles ah fellas have a heart he says
September I'll have 3 kids in school
they raised the rent again and the old lady
is after me for an Electra tough I say
sign here Lloyd and then he puts his hand
to his chest and I say come on now
but he falls out of his swivel chair
sprawls on the floor and Mike says
stand back I was an army medic
makes a double fist stoops over
and smashes the shit out of Lloyd's
breastbone you can hear it shatter all
over the office Mike I say stand
back he says and blows into Lloyd's
sagging mouth rears back and whops
Lloyd in the chest goes on and on and on
like this while I phone the hospital hear
the siren say in here to the air force
medics and Lloyd's gone and I grab
Mike to keep him from blowing into
the rug and I say Mike he's gone Mike he's
dead for god's sake and Mike says
huh and I say I quit goddamn it there must
be a better way to make a living I'm
going right back there and tell Chapman I
quit and Mike says what about
the payments on your 280SL and I say
you think you can forge Lloyd's name on this?

TODAY WE STUDIED THE FARMER, DAD

Eating, always eating
Something to fill the holes
Gnawed by growth, my daughter
Tells me she wants to move
To a farm, chickens, cows,
Moo and cluck from sunup
Till evening. But I'm forty
And not hungry. I remember
August, haying and the heat
So well that sweat runs down
My Leghorn forehead. She says
I'd soon get used to it again
And I pick up paper and pen,
Pause long enough to say
Honey, I never got used to it.